

IN THE CLAIMS:

All of the pending claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, and 10-28 are set forth below. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (cancelled), (previously presented), or (currently amended). Please AMEND claims 10-17 and 19-27 in accordance with the following:

1. (previously presented) A mail system comprising:
 - a mail source from which an e-mail is sent;
 - one or more destinations which receive the e-mail from said mail source at their respective mail addresses;
 - a mail address manager managing the respective mail addresses of said destinations, said mail address manager being operative, in response to updating of the mail address of at least one destination, to register a new destination mail address in correlation with said old destination mail address;
 - a mail storing section temporarily storing a particular e-mail, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, until said new destination mail address is registered by said mail address manager; and
 - a mail sending section sending the particular e-mail to said new destination mail address when said new destination mail address is registered in said mail address manager.
2. (original) A mail system according to claim 1, wherein said mail address manager is a mail server which receives an e-mail from said mail source and sends the last-named e-mail to at least one destination mail address.
3. (original) A mail system according to claim 2, wherein said mail address manager is a plurality of mail servers which manage the mail addresses of two or more destinations separately.
4. (cancelled)
5. (previously presented) A mail system according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a notifying section notifying said mail source that the mail address of at least one destination has been updated.
6. (previously presented) A mail system according to claim 5, further comprising:
 - a mail address rewriting section rewriting the mail address of at least one destination in an e-mail address book when said mail source is notified by said notifying section that the mail

address of said at least one destination has been updated.

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) A mail system according to claim 1, wherein:

said mail address manager registers the mail addresses of said destinations and attribute information respectively unique to said destinations in correlation with each other; and
when sending an e-mail to the mail address of a particular destination, said mail source inputs said attribute information unique to said particular destination for substitution for the mail address of said particular destination so that the last-named e-mail is sent to said particular destination corresponding to said input attribute information.

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations ~~about a system environment of the individual destination~~;

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,
wherein said mail processing section compresses said e-mail data into such a size receivable by the destination.

11. (currently amended) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations ~~about a system environment of the individual destination~~;

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which regards the mail addresses of destinations and said system

environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,
wherein said mail processing section divides said e-mail data into a plurality of pieces of e-mail data, each piece of e-mail data having such a size receivable by the destination.

12. (currently amended) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations~~about a system environment of the individual destination;~~

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,
wherein said mail processing section ciphers said e-mail data into such a form decipherable by the destination.

13. (currently amended) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations~~about a system environment of the individual destination;~~

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system

environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,

wherein if said e-mail data sent from the mail source is a compressed form, said mail processing section expands such compressed data to the original data size.

14. (currently amended) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations~~about a system environment of the individual destination~~;

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,

wherein if said e-mail data sent from the mail source is in the form of separate pieces of data, said mail processing section combines the separate pieces of data one with another.

15. (currently amended) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations~~about a system environment of the individual destination~~;

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section; and

a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to the destination,

wherein if said e-mail data sent from the mail source is a ciphered form, said mail

processing section deciphers said ciphered data.

16. (currently amended) A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

an address list for mailing list system in which a plurality of destination mail addresses the particular e-mail is sent in one lump are registered; and

a mail address rewriting section, operative upon receipt of a notice that the mail address of at least one destination has been updated, rewriting the old destination mail address, which is registered in said address list for mailing list system, into a new destination mail address.

17. (currently amended) A mail system according to claim 16, further comprising a registration time information recording section recording registration time information, which specifies a time when a particular destination mail address is registered, and the last-named destination mail address in correlation with each other, said mail address rewriting section being operative, upon receipt of the notice that the destination mail address list for mailing list system has been updated, to consult with said registration time information of said new destination mail address and rewrites said old destination mail address into said new destination mail address in accordance with said registration time information.

18. (original) A mail system according to claim 16, further comprising a mail address rewrite instructing section instructing an e-mail address rewrite process, said mail address rewriting section being responsive to the instruction of said mail address rewrite instructing section to perform an e-mail address rewrite process.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus for sending e-mail, which is received from a mail source, to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a mail address manager managing the mail addresses of the destinations, said mail address manager being operative, in response to updating of the mail address of at least one destination, to register a new destination mail address in correlation with said old destination mail address;

a mail storing section temporarily storing a particular e-mail, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, until said new destination mail address is registered by said mail address manager; and

a mail sending section, responsive to receipt of an e-mail addressed to said old destination mail address, sending the last-named e-mail to said new mail address.

20. (currently amended) An apparatus for sending an e-mail, which is received from a mail source, to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

a system environment storage section storing system environment information of the destinations~~about a system environment of the individual destination~~;

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment information table, which registers the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information; and

a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the destination based on said system environment information of the last-named destination which information is stored in said system environment storage section.

21. (currently amended) A method of sending an e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

registering, when the mail address of a particular destination has been updated, said old mail address of the particular destination and a new destination mail address in correlation with each other;

temporarily storing a particular e-mail, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, until said new destination mail address is registered by said mail address manager; and

sending an e-mail, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, to said new destination mail address if the last-named e-mail is addressed to said old destination mail address.

22. (currently amended) A method of sending e-mail from a mail source to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses, comprising:

retaining system environment information of the destinations~~about a system environment of the individual destination~~;

creating a system environment information table, which is registering the mail addresses of destinations and said system environment information in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

processing e-mail data, which is contained in an e-mail sent out from the mail source, into such a form receivable by the individual destination based on said system environment information; and

sending the e-mail having the processed e-mail data to the individual destination.

23. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a mail system program is recorded, said mail system program being adapted to render a computer to function as the following:

a mail address manager for managing mail addresses of destinations and registering, when the mail address of a particular destination has been updated, said old mail address of the particular destination and a new mail address in correlation with each other;

a mail storing section temporarily storing a particular e-mail, which is addressed to said old destination mail address, until said new destination mail address is registered by said mail address manager; and

a mail sending section for sending an e-mail, which is addressed to said old mail address, to said particular destination at said new mail address.

24. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 27, wherein said mail system program renders the computer to function further as the following:

a registration time information recording section which records registration time information, which specifies a time when a mail address of a destination has been entered in a mail address list for mailing list system, and the last-named mail address in correlation with each other; and

a mail address rewriting section which consults with said registration time information upon receipt of a notice that the mail address of said particular destination has been updated, and rewriting the last-named mail address in said mail address list for mailing list system in accordance with said registration time information.

25. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 27, wherein said mail system program renders the computer to function further as the following:

a mail address rewriting section which rewrites the mail address of said particular destination in said mail address; and

a mail address rewrite instructing section which gives an instruction to said mail address rewriting section to rewrite said mail address list for mailing list system in accordance with said instruction of said mail rewrite instructing section.

26. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a mail system program is recorded, said mail system program being adapted to render a computer to function as the following:

a system environment information table create section creating a system environment

information table, which is registering the mail addresses of destinations and system environment information of the destinations in correlation with each other, by obtaining said system environment information;

a mail processing section which processes e-mail data, which is contained in an e-mail sent out from a mail source and addressed to a particular destination at a mail address thereof, into such a form receivable by said particular destination based on a system environment of said particular destination; and

a mail sending section which sends the last-named e-mail, addressed to said particular destination and having the processed e-mail data, to said particular destination.

27. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a mail system program is recorded, said mail system program being adapted to render a computer to function as the following:

a mail address list for mailing list system in which a plurality of destination mail address ~~or-addresses the particular e-mail is sent in one lump are of one or more destinations are~~ ~~registered or to be registered~~; and

a mail address rewriting section which rewrites, upon receipt of a notice that an mail address of a particular destination registered in said mail address list for mailing list system has been updated, the last-named address of said particular destination into a new mail address.

28. (previously presented) A mail system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a notifying section notifying said mail source of the new mail address of the destination.